



MONTHLY REPORT DECEMBER 2017

Commercial and Recreational Fisheries

- Dec. 1: 2018 shellfishing permits went on sale. We sold 66 commercial and 59 annual recreational permits during the month.
- Dec. 1: Duck Creek opened to commercial shellfishing (only). 11 shellfishermen harvested their limits (one bushel each = 11 bushels total) on opening day.
- The first two weeks of December were very busy with many commercial and recreational fishermen spread out across all access areas from north to south.
- Dec. 13 was the first day harvesting shellfish was shut down due to temps below 28 degrees, a warmer week followed, however by Tues., Jan. 26, below freezing and then below 28 degree temperatures took hold until Jan. 7, bringing in fast, early ice, and shutting down all wild shellfishing and access to grants.

Enforcement

- Grant inspections continued in December, but the early arrival of ice cancelled the last two scheduled ones. All other inspections were completed, totaling more than 150 grants.
- Spot size compliance checks were done with wild commercial harvesters with no infractions.
- Eight overwintering agreements were turned in by grant holders before the ice set in. Eleven were turned in late, but with accurate information. We are developing enforcement action.
- On Dec. 13, a written warning was issued to a shellfisherman who had advertised in the *Cape Cod Times* that frozen, shucked oyster meats were for sale out of his home.
- Christmas Day is the only day the Shellfish Dept. does not patrol all year.

State and Town Relations

- A joint memo with the Town of Eastham Shellfish Dept. was issued on December 19, and mailed to all commercially permitted shellfishermen in Wellfleet and Eastham. The memo explained in detail the town line delineating the division of Wellfleet and Eastham waters, and informed fishermen that it is their responsibility to know the line and fish correctly.
- We inspected beach access to a property on Lt. Island to weigh in with MA Division of Marine Fisheries and the Conservation Commission on the presence of wild shellfish populations.
- Constable and Asst. Constable attended Mass. Shellfish Officers' Association meeting and toured the state's Newburyport shellfish depuration facility.
- We continue to work with Shellfish Advisory Board to update the Shellfish Management Plan.

Propagation

- We received no bids for our Cultch barge RFP. Feedback was that the timeline was not adequate. We are working with Harbormaster Dept. to assess next steps.
- Chopper Young donated tens of thousands of seed oysters to our propagation efforts. We distributed these in both commercial and recreational areas.
- With impending quick arrival of ice, we had to scrap our last seed oyster distribution run and get our boat out of the water. We scattered 25 bags of seed oysters on the bottom of town bed, which we will redistribute around the harbor post-ice. Racks were brought to sand pit.

Education & Outreach

- Two Shellfish Criers were distributed, one to commercial fishermen and grant holders and one to recreational permit holders.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Civetta, Shellfish Constable